

Second update on the Spring 2022 memorial trip (November 27, 2019)

From: Leon Zamosc

Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2019

To: All potential trip participants list

Subject: Follow-up: plans for the Spring 2022 memorial trip to Poland

Good evening to all the potential participants in the Spring 2022 memorial trip, and happy Thanksgiving Day to those who live in the United States.

Back on September 20, we circulated to all of you an update with the conclusions of the first virtual meeting of the trip's planning group. This message is the first of two follow-ups. The planning group had delegated a couple of tasks to small committees. Both committees have now submitted their reports. Below, we include one of them, written by the two of us and focused on the organization of the visits to the towns.

As you can see at the end of the report, we are forming a small team of volunteer trip coordinators. The two of us have volunteered to participate in the team. If any of you would like to join us, please write back.

More generally, do write back if you have any questions related to this message.

With best wishes,

Marysia Galbraith and Leon Zamosc

PS: The second follow-up (focused on the establishment of an association of descendants) will be circulated to you soon.

Report - Committee on the organization of town visits for the Spring 2022 memorial trip

At its first virtual meeting (Aug 26-Sep 2), the planning group agreed on a basic preliminary blueprint for various aspects of the organization of the Spring 2022 memorial trip (main activities, lodging, transportation, overall costs, translation services, kosher food, etc.). Because of its complexity, the issue of how to visit the individual towns was delegated to a small committee composed of Marysia Galbraith and Leon Zamosc. After conducting a quick survey in which all the potential participants were asked to list the towns that they would like to visit, we examined the expressed town preferences. This is a summary of our recommendations:

- The entire group will participate in three major events (symposium with historians, workshop with Jewish institutions, and cultural evening with Polish civil organizations) that will take place in the largest towns, one per day. The rest of those three days will be devoted to the visit of each one of those towns. This means that the three largest towns will be covered that way: Wloclawek, Kutno and Gostynin.

- We will devote two days to visit the smaller towns. For such visits we will split up into sub-groups with different itineraries. Since the visits will be tailored to the interests of the participants, the actual organization of the sub-groups will have to wait until the final list of participants is available, which will only happen a couple of months before the trip. In the meantime, however, we can outline some ideas on the criteria to organize the sub-groups and itineraries.

- The sub-groups' itineraries will be organized in such a way that all participants will be able to visit the small town in which they are most interested and have opportunities to visit at least one or two of their other preferred towns.

- As long as we can ensure the availability of translators, we will try to keep the sub-groups small and limited to visiting a couple of towns of shared interest. Since distances are not far, another option might be to have sub-groups going to different towns in the morning and afternoon. That would provide more flexibility for mixing and matching destinations.

- Considering our region's map, it might make most sense to organize one day of town visits in the area near Kutno and another day in the area near Wloclawek.

- Some people mentioned nearby towns that are outside our primary area. Such towns could be included in some of the sub-group itineraries or visited separately on the second day by interested participants going on their own.

Many participants will only be interested in visiting a couple of towns. For them, one of the two days of small town visits will be a free day that they can use for other purposes, like going to farther towns outside our area, visiting regional archives to do some genealogy research, or touring museums and regional touristic attractions. We will offer guidance and resources for these alternative activities and, as another option, we could organize a Jewish Heritage tour of Lodz.

Finally, we think that we should have a small team of up to four volunteer trip coordinators. It will be helpful if these trip coordinators have some field experience in Poland. Since the organization of the 2022 memorial trip will require some personal contacts and legwork in Poland, it would be ideal if the coordinators already have plans of their own to visit there in the course of the next couple of years. For both of us, it will be a pleasure to serve in this small team of volunteer coordinators.

Marysia Galbraith and Leon Zamosc